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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brown, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This amendment does a number of things. The first part of the amendment deals with the tiered system which the Department of Health and Human Services had some concerns about, and certainly that was reflected in the A bill that we've already discussed. This changes it from a three-tiered system to a two-tiered system and allows the programs that are accredited to automatically be in the Tier I, which is the highest tier, and it's...it, hopefully, will allow the department to be able to manage this. The language that...that is, in describing the tiers and the accreditation piece, is taken directly out of statutes about nursing homes in the way that they delineate between two kinds of licensing for...for nursing homes. One is the skilled-care facility and I'm...I'm...I'm blanking on what the other one is, but they have two different kinds of licenses, and this mirrors that language and goes to the two-tiered system. The second part of it is just some language to make it clear that...that we're talking about, rather than talking just about education services, we're talking about early childhood care and education. It makes it consistent with other language in statute. The third section makes it clear that training that is done via distance learning can count towards the group setting piece of the legislation for we had a number of issues on the floor when the bill first came up about the availability of training. I think that it's an important issue. I have a lot of information about some of the trainings that are available, that are currently available, but it is an issue that I am particularly sensitive to how we get it to everyone that needs it and wants it and make sure that everyone can accomplish what the bill calls for in...in a way that...that's doable. And so this makes sure that...that we are...we have allowed for distance learning so that...so that in those parts of the state where it's a little bit more difficult to get to training, that...that we can make sure that people can get there. Then...then the next part phases in the training requirements and, once again, this is...this is to deal with some of the issues that I have heard on the floor about the availability of